

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ASAF, NP

SUBJECT: RNAC AIR SAFETY AND MAINTENANCE

REF: A) FISCHER/LORTON O-I DATED 4/4/75; B) STATE 78542

1. WE HAVE READ REF LETTER AND ENCLOSED MEMCON WITH SOME CONCERN AND ENDORSE AMBASSADOR CARGO'S RECOMMENDATION TO LIMIT TRAVEL OF U.S. MISSION PERSONNEL ON RNAC'S SMALLER PLANES TO ESSENTIAL BUSINESS.

2. WE WONDER, HOWEVER, WHETHER THIS STEP GOES FAR ENOUGH GIVEN DOUBTS ICAO REP HAS EXPRESSED ABOUT RELIABILITY OF RNAC SMALLER AIRCRAFT AND WONDER WHETHER FURTHER STEPS NOT CALLED FOR. WE OFFER A FEW IDEAS ON POSSIBLE APPROACHES TO THE PROBLEM AND SOLICIT YOUR SUGGESTIONS: A) QUESTION OF RNAC'S RELIABILITY MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS DISCUSSION AND JOINT ACTION WITH ICAO REP; B) UNLIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LATERALLY, WE COULD ASK GON IF THEY WOULD BE INTERESTED

IN INVITING FAA EXPERT TO COME OUT ON SHORT-TERM BASIS OR
PERHAPS EVEN FUNDING HIM FOR A LONGER PERIOD OF TIME; C)
MEANWHILE, WE MIGHT CONSIDER CURTAILING TRAVEL BY MISSION
PERSONNEL TO EMERGENCIES ONLY, INFORMING GON AND NOTING
WE SHALL HAVE TO ISSUE A PUBLIC WARNING TO U.S. CITIZENS
(ADMITTEDLY AN EXTREME MEASURE) IF WE CANNOT BE ASSURED

THAT RNAC'S PLANES ARE SAFE.

3. WE WELCOME YOUR REACTIONS AND FURTHER THOUGHTS. KISSINGER

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